

2023-2024 QEII Academy Fellowships recruitment guideline topics

Asia-Pacific Programme

- What are China's regional and global leadership ambitions and how are Beijing's ambitions impacting its neighbourhood and global governance?
- How do other Asian nations perceive China and how are they managing their relationships with China?
- What international role are other rising powers such as India and Indonesia seeking and how can and will they change their regions and the wider world?
- How are the various Indo-Pacific strategies and approaches of the US and its allies perceived in the region and how are they faring?
- What has driven successful democratic consolidation in Asia and why is authoritarianism proving so enduring in some countries?
- What models and approaches should developing nations in Asia take to ensure rapid and more balanced economic growth in future?

Digital Society Initiative

- In recent months, the latest developments in the AI sphere, especially large language models, have attracted much media and public attention. Unfortunately, instead of generating an inclusive and evidence-based public debate, this increased interest has mainly led to over-hyped narratives on AI technologies, often alarmist in nature and in most cases misleading. What are the societal implications of generative AI? Which applications and challenges would benefit from public policy/governance discussions? What are some of the most promising (private and public) initiatives for the deployment of responsible and right preserving AI? How could the community foster greater collaboration and cross-fertilization among stakeholders across all fields in the AI space?
- In this roadmap for digital cooperation, the UN Secretary general highlighted the need to encourage and invest in the creation of digital public goods. What constitutes a Digital Public Good? What are the practical barriers to such goods and how could they be overcome? Which coalition of actors is needed to support the creation of such goods?

Environment and Society Programme

- How might international governance and finance mechanisms be reimagined and/or reinvigorated to better respond to climate-related challenges?
- How has the war in Ukraine affected global and national resource dynamics regarding energy, food or critical materials? How can international governance frameworks reduce these risks and vulnerabilities?

Europe Programme

- What should a future European security architecture look like? What is the long- and short-term impact on this of the war in Ukraine?

- How can democracy in Europe be deepened? What role does economic policy in this revitalisation of democracy in Europe?
- What is the future of industrial policy in Europe in the face of competition from China and the US? How should the UK relate to this?

Global Economy and Finance Programme

- Are the existing international institutions for managing the global economy fit for purpose in responding to today's pressing global challenges, such as climate change, health risks, rapid technological change and growing income and wealth inequality? If not, how can they be improved?
- Given the repercussions from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and in the face of growing tensions between the US and China, economic security has become an increasingly important feature of national security. What broad strategies on economic security do different countries pursue and what are the key approaches being used in areas such as investment screening, export controls, resisting economic coercion and strengthening supply chain resilience? What role do unilateral measures vs international cooperation play? How can protection of national security in the economic field be balanced with maintaining as far as possible the benefits of an open economy?

Global Health Programme

- Where might the COVID-19 crisis catalyse universal health reforms?
- Digital health technologies and their potential to transform health systems.

International Law Programme

- How can international law address advances in AI and cyberspace, to facilitate state to state cooperation and help constrain harmful activities and impacts, both from states, companies and individuals?
- How can international human rights law deal with the challenges, including in relation to new environmental treaties such as the plastics and biodiversity treaties, as well as the impact of populist politics on human rights and trade-related human rights issues?
- how are geopolitical tensions shaping international law, and also the human rights system? What are the long-term international law implications of Russia's war in Ukraine? How can the multilateral system be upheld in the context of these geopolitical challenges and what changes are needed? How can the UK demonstrate effective leadership in international law? How to promote diverse and inclusive leadership, including from the Global South, in international law and the human rights space?

International Security Programme

- What are the changing roles of non-state actors in armed conflicts and how do they impact the future of conflict?
- How does access to, and competition over, resources, specifically critical minerals and rare earth metals impact conflict dynamics, and what are the potential mitigation measures?
- What are the possible scenarios for new arms control frameworks, and how can they be designed to focus on the ecosystem of actors and confidence-building measures?
- How can international regimes around the peaceful uses of biological, chemical, and/or nuclear technologies be strengthened, and what measures can be taken to foster international collaboration and strengthen the non-proliferation regime?

- What is the role of cybersecurity in achieving economic development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- What are the current trends and challenges in data governance and security in emerging economies?

Middle East and North Africa Programme

- How can the Libyan state seek to increase levels of accountability and transparency over the expenditure of public funds amid its ongoing governance dispute?
- How are geopolitical tensions impacting China's engagement and approach to the MENA region?

US and the Americas Programme

- How can the US best leverage regional and multilateral institutions to advance its national security goals?
- How will the war in Ukraine affect the transatlantic partnership, and especially the US role in Europe?
- What will the impact be of polarisation in the US on US foreign policy?
- How is the rise of China impacting US policy and strategy in the Indo-Pacific? With respect to India?
- Have China's diplomatic and economic approach differed in Africa and Latin America—both across both regions and within the region by country? What are the implications of any differences or similarities? How have host governments responded?
- How will US domestic challenges impact US foreign policy? How will a value-based US foreign policy evolve in the context of a global democratic decline?